# Delivering Soil Data

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*A statement by the Soil Survey Division about delivering soil data and information in the 21st century*

## Corporate Vision

Delivering consistent, high-quality soil data with an efficient, integrated system for collection, management, and distribution

## NRCS requires use of soil data to:

- Develop and Implement Conservation Plans
- Support Federal Agency Programs
- Support State and Local Programs
- Meet Public Demand for Resource Data
- Determine Agency Direction
- Plan and Target Agency Resources
- Support National Resource Inventories

## Current Situation

Soil data and information are managed and delivered by many independent systems, only some of which are integrated.

- NASIS
- Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)
- SSURGO
- STATSGO
- FOTG
- Soils Explorer
- Soil Data Viewer (SDV)
- Customer Service Toolkit (CST)
- Published Soil Surveys
- NRI
- Pedon Descriptions
- SIR, MUIR, OSD, Taxonomy

## Limitations of Current Situation

People receive inconsistent data from a wide variety of sources. In many cases they cannot determine if the data are official, current, or appropriate for their use.

Using the various independent systems to manage and deliver soil data is inefficient, costly, and time consuming. These independent systems result in redundant and inconsistent data and interpretations. Spatial and attribute data are managed in separate systems that require manual processes to bring them together. Some collected soil data (notes, pictures, and the results of investigations) are unavailable for general use, and could be lost forever.

Many of these limitations are addressed in the original design of our soil information system, but that design has not been fully implemented.

## Achieving the Vision

- Improve the integration of all soil information system components (NASIS, LIMS, Pedon, etc.) by updating and implementing the agency's Information Systems Plan.
- Establish one convenient place where all customers can easily access, view, and retrieve the desired data by supporting the development of a single source of official soil data (Soil Data Warehouse).

# Delivering Soil Data

The following diagram illustrates the vision of an integrated data delivery system. At the top are the existing independent information systems for collecting and managing soil data. The dotted lines indicate that integration has not yet been achieved.

The next two drawings illustrate the need to develop a method of archiving data for use by various applications, and the need to develop the tools required to make access to the data possible. Once these items have been developed, we can efficiently deliver consistent, accurate data to SSURGO, FOTG, CST/SDV, published reports, and the public.